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Dry dorms on tap at UH-Manoa

Alcohol-free zones would be established for underage students

Gregg Kakesako
gkakesako@starbulletin.com

The University of Hawaii at Manoa plans to combat underage drinking in its dorms with measures including segregating some student residents by age and having a three-strikes policy for violators.

Jim Manke, University of Hawaii spokesman said today that new procedures such as dorm assignments can be implemented fairly quickly.

However, he added that another proposal asking students who live in dorms to waive their privacy rights to allow university officials to contact their parents for severe violations will take some work and input from student groups and others. The severe violations include physical or sexual assault, possession of a firearm or explosives, intimidation, or drug and alcohol violations.

Students who commit three violations would be banned from living on campus. The underage drinking proposals stem from the work of a task force of university students, university staff, parents, security and community members that began in January.

The proposals are in response to binge drinking that has plagued colleges throughout the country.

Manoa Chancellor Peter Englert described today the results of the task force as containing “pieces for an integrated and comprehensive program we believe will go a long way toward managing the enforcement of rules, educating our students in healthful and responsible behavior, and moving toward alternative leisure time activities.”

Currently, alcohol is not allowed in the four freshmen hall dorms, as well as at two other dorms open to upper-class students. The rest of the UH dorms contain a mix of students over and under 21.

Starting in the fall, Hale Noelani will house students younger than 20 — but not freshmen — and alcohol will be banned. The low-rise apartments in the Hale Wainani dorm complex will become alcohol-free for students 21 and older. Alcohol will be allowed in the high-rise buildings in the same Hale Wainani complex, which will be restricted to students of drinking age.

Security cameras will be placed in common areas of all 10 university dorms, which house a total of 3,000 students.

To enforce the measures, the task force calls for the creation of a campus police force or giving the existing security members the power to issue citations. University officials will seek student input on all the recommendations, Manke said.
